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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 662

By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and celebrate the 200th anniversary of
Dixon's Creek Missionary Baptist Church.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to the dedicated members of those exemplary religious institutions, who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, the Dixon's Creek Missionary Baptist Church congregation and their beloved Pastor, the late Elder James W. Briley, who served from 1988 until his untimely death on February 26, 2000, are most assuredly deserving of praise and commendation; and

WHEREAS, on March 8, 1800, the Church was constituted by a Presbytery of Baptist Ministers from Davidson and Sumner Counties with 21 charter members, who came to the area in the late 1700s from other states; and

WHEREAS, the organization took place at the home of Captain Grant Allen, near the mouth of Dixon's Creek, just below Dixon Springs in Smith County; and

WHEREAS, Elder Daniel Burford was elected Pastor at the constitution, and 21 Baptist ministers have served in that important position during the past 200 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1800, the Church joined the Mero District Association, the first Baptist Association in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, it has helped to constitute and has been represented in the following Baptist Associations: Cumberland, 1803-09; Concord, 1810-22; Salem, 1822-49; Enon, 1850-90; and Wiseman, 1891-1917; and

WHEREAS, the present house of worship was built in 1859 near the bank of Dixon's Creek some two miles above and north of Dixon Springs in Trousdale County, with the brick used in the construction being baked on the nearby farm of a Church member; and

WHEREAS, the good people who comprise the membership of the Dixon's Creek Missionary Baptist Church congregation, under the astute guidance of Deacons Joe Davis Gregory, Billy Towns, Roy Towns, Alfus Woodard and Jackie Woodard, personify David's words in Psalm 34:3, "Oh magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together"; and

WHEREAS, the Dixon's Creek Church has sent out several churches, and lettered off untold numbers to other churches; and

WHEREAS, the Dixon's Creek Missionary Baptist Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our state and nation, and the members of this fine congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and join in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Dixon's Creek Missionary Baptist Church, salute the congregation's meritorious service to the community, and extend to its members the best in all future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.